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CONTACT: Kevin Schneider 928-608-6208

Glen Canyon News Release

Boat Infested with Quagga Mussels Decontaminated

Page, Ariz. – A boat infested with quagga mussels was decontaminated yesterday at Wahweap Marina. The boat arrived at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area from Lake Havasu, where it had been moored for more than six months.

National Park Service staff at Glen Canyon's entrance station directed the boat to the decontamination station at Wahweap Marina, since it had recently come from a quagga mussel infested lake. As staff from ARAMARK – Lake Powell Resorts and Marinas were decontaminating the boat, they noticed quagga mussels on the boat's prop, outdrive, and along the bottom of the boat. The visitor was unaware that he had quagga mussels attached to his boat. ARAMARK's staff thoroughly decontaminated the boat before it was allowed to launch, killing all quagga mussels with scalding hot water.

"As we move into the busy 4th of July holiday, it is critical that our visitors are aware of how to prevent spreading quagga mussels and infesting Lake Powell. Visitors bringing boats from Lakes Mead, Mohave, or Havasu, or areas east of the Rocky Mountains, need to take some simple steps to be sure they aren't inadvertently transporting quagga mussels," said Glen Canyon National Recreation Area superintendent Kitty Roberts.

Glen Canyon's quagga and zebra mussel prevention program requires that all visitors with boats display a certificate on their dashboard stating their boats are free of quagga mussels. The certificate is available at park entrances or online by self- certifying at www.nps.gov/glca. Visitors that have recently been in quagga mussel infested locations are required to have their boats professionally decontaminated for a small fee.

Quagga mussels are an invasive species that were discovered for the first time west of the Rocky Mountains in Lake Mead in January and have subsequently been found in Lakes Mohave and Havasu. Lake Powell remains free of quagga mussels. Quagga mussels are normally spread by attaching themselves to boats, which are launched in one lake and then later moved into a different lake.

More information about preventing quagga mussels is available online at www.nps.gov/glca.

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